JONATHAN

·A·TRAGEDY·

BY THOMAS EWING JR.

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JONATHAN

A TRAGEDY

BY

THOMAS EWING, JR.

An imitation of the very best and noblest life is the very truth of tragedy.

—PLATO (*The Laws*)

. . . and if it be according
To the old text, still better.

—BYRON (*Don Juan*)

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY
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PREFACE

SAUL, the first King of Israel, and David, the great king, so overshadowed Jonathan, who was but a prince, that he interested the Biblical narrator mainly as a factor in the feud between the great rivals. That the situation in which he was placed was tragic, and that he displayed elevation of character, is clear; but there is lacking the wealth of detail with which his career and personality would have been developed had he been of greater political importance. For this reason I have felt that the story, as it is told in the first book of Samuel, could be elaborated with advantage. The setting which I have wrought for it is adorned with gems of thought and expression taken from the Bible freely and at random. These and other conscious borrowings are acknowledged in the notes.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

SAUL . . . . . *King of Israel*

JONATHAN . . . . . *Saul's Oldest Son and Heir*

DAVID . . . . . *Anointed of Samuel*

SAMUEL . . . . . *The Prophet*

ABNER . . . . . *Cousin to Saul*

ESHBAAL, MELCHISUA, and ABINADAB . *Sons of Saul*

ARMORI and MEPHIBOSHETH . *Sons of Rizpah and Saul*

ADRIEL . . . . . *Saul's Son-in-law*

PALTI . . . . . *Saul's Son-in-law*

DOEG . . . . . *Saul's Chief Herdsman*

ZIBA . . . . . *A Servant of Saul*

ELHANAN . . . . . *A Lad*

An Amalekite, Cooks, Messengers, and Soldiers

MICHAL . . . *A Daughter of Saul and Wife of David and afterward of Palti*

AHINOAM . *Jonathan's Wife, and their Two Children*

MERAB . . . *A Daughter of Saul and Wife of Adriel*

Women of the Populace

ACT I

SCENE I.—*The Vale of Elah.* SAUL *in sackcloth, and with ashes on his head. Enter a* TROOP *in like garb, singing:*

TROOP

Turn unto the Lord.
Speak a word of bringing back again
The King of kings, and He will come to bless;
As on that day when fervent Samuel set
Upon thy lordly, overtopping front
The rule and majesty of Israel.

When a lion, fierce with heat and thirst,
Doth range the burning sands, and finds at last
A palm-tree, rooted by a spring of water,
He laps, and heaves his sides, and crouches down;
Even so the fiercest soul finds rest in God.
Turn unto the Lord.

[*Exeunt the* TROOP OF SINGERS.

SCENE II.—*The same.* JONATHAN *alone. The combat of* DAVID *with* GOLIATH *has occurred in the time between the first and the second scenes.*

JONATHAN

What stripling can he be, so lithely built,
Whose courage, swift as eagle flight, hath swept
Beyond the farthest limit braved by any
Among the mighty men of Israel;
Whose sling and rounded stone has overturned
The huge Philistine, armed with spear and shield
Which he could barely lift?—This boy, whose arm
Could not have brandished even the spear which I
Can throw pointblank! My pride had wished him slain,
But that his courage seemed so vastly large
As on he ran to meet the fierce Goliath,
And swore to give to birds and beasts his body.

Many left-handed Benjamites can sling
A stone within a hair, if done in sport;
But cool deliverance within the blast
And range of such a savage monster's breath—
Here he comes—

Enter DAVID.

Fair youth, I know thy face,
What is thy name?

DAVID

David, son of Jesse,
That Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah.

JONATHAN

And where before have I encountered thee?

DAVID

When I have sung within thy father's tent.

JONATHAN

I would have known thee when I saw thee first
But that thy mighty deed to-day performed
A glamour cast around thy stripling figure;

As tho thy spirit, like a halo flaming
About thy body, stood encased within
Goliath's armor, hiding thee from view.
Who taught thee aim so sure and throw so true,
No matter what the stake?

Enter ABNER *unnoticed.*

DAVID

Not long ago
The mighty prophet Samuel, seer of God,
Came to my father's tents, and there reviewed
The sons of Jesse, all of stalwart frame
Beyond myself, who am the youngest child,
While I was on the plains of Bethlehem
Watching our flocks. But unto none did he
His approbation give, and straightway asked
That I be summoned. There upon my head
He poured a horn of oil, and went his way.
Since then no danger that I have encountered
Has caused my heart to sink ; I turned my sling
Against Goliath with such confidence

As I had cast a stone against a sparrow.

JONATHAN

Anointed one! I can not hope to reach
Thy perfect faith. But I will doff thy cap
And set mine own upon thy chosen crest;
Girdle my sword about thy slender thigh;
Cast my cloak about thee; cry to all
That I, as prince in blood, a kinship claim
With thy majestic nature. On my heart
By thee to-day thy figure has been stamped,
And thou shalt current be in all my thoughts.

[DAVID *prostrates himself.*

Up, arise! thou fitter prince than I.
For I will have no service to exclude me
From fellowship with thee.

[*Exit* ABNER *unnoticed.*

DAVID

Thou praisest much;
And much abusest thy superb repute.

Who, with no one except thine armor-bearer—
Knowing that no restraint is on the Lord,
The God of hosts, to save by few or many—
Didst charge upon the garrison that lay
Behind the rocks of Bozez and of Seneh,
Which stand confronting Gibeah and Michmash;
There thou didst slay a score or more Philistines
In half a furrow-length upon an acre.
How often have I heard the story told!
Terror seizes them all; their battle lines,
Bristling before like windrows, wildly tremble;
And now the mighty army melts away
And scatters here and there, no two together!

JONATHAN

Ah, heavy woful day to me! For Saul,
Without my having heard it, laid a curse
On him that any food should taste till even.
And I, in hunger fierce, my spear-head dipping
In honey, ate, that I might further still

Drive on the battle. Thus, like Jephthah's daughter,
Whose fate the Hebrew maidens yearly mourn,
Upon my head I brought confusion down
Intending service. For, when we had slain
The foe to Aijalon, Saul sought a sign,
And none was given. Then a lot he cast
Between the people and himself and me
To find the sinner. When the lot on us
Had fallen, and another that was cast
Marked out me, the king had straightway slain me
Had not the men of Israel cried out
And plucked me from him. Still the curse remains,
And some day it shall fall, I fear, and crush me.
Now shalt thou make a covenant with me :
That thou wilt cut not off thy loving kindness
From all my house forever. May the Lord
Require it even from thine enemies.
For thou wilt stand without the range and spring

Of such calamities as lie in wait
For those whose feet the royal pathways tread,
In the glare and desert of publicity.

DAVID

Oh, prince! Oh, Jonathan! Thy loving words
Have moved the deepest waters of my soul;
Freely I swear as thou requirest me.
The Lord do so and more also to me
If I do break my vow. But what wilt thou
Swear unto me?

JONATHAN

That thou shalt ever be
My brother, confidant, my heart's companion—
But here is Saul; and, at his elbow, Abner.

Enter SAUL *and* ABNER.

ABNER

Ha! Hath this slinger dight himself so quickly
In princely garments?

SAUL

What is meant by this?

DAVID

Take back again thy cap, thy sword, and cloak.
My sling and sheepskin jacket fit me better.

ABNER

Well spoken, shepherd!

JONATHAN

What is that to thee?
If thou wilt such another venture take,
I'll give my sword and anything thou lackest.
If not, let shame be thy promotion, Abner.

SAUL

Son, our cousin Abner is in the right.
Because the youth hath overturned Goliath,
Is he to be thy peer or thy supplanter?
When thou wouldst buckle him within thy cloak
Thou dost forget thy line, and he his place.

JONATHAN

The youth is not at fault. He only took
What I did press upon him. Such a deed
As he performed to-day will make thy reign

Renowned forever. Not a boy will grow
To manhood but must hear the tale retold.
How grand the throne that rests upon such pillars!
So thinking of him as thy loyal subject,
And seeking inspiration from his friendship,
I hung my sword upon him, set my cap
Upon his curly head, and threw my cloak
About his shoulders. Nothing more than this
Was meant by him or me.

SAUL

Well, let it pass.
My cousin Abner, come.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—*Gibeah. Enter* MICHAL *and* MERAB, *daughters of Saul.*

MICHAL

Tell me, my sister, dost thou favor David?

MERAB

And what is that to thee?

MICHAL

A wedding, Merab.

MERAB

Nay, not for me; I do not like his way.
This boy, that scarce hath left his father's flocks,
Doth pleasure Saul with every winning art
Like an old courtier, yet maintains a marked
And proud reserve toward every other man,
As tho he might, one day, be king himself!
And when 'twas told him Saul would have us wed,
"Who am I," quoth the artful hypocrite,
"Poor shepherd, to be made the sovereign's son?"

He seeks enrichment from the hand of Saul,
So Abner says. I love him not, this David.

MICHAL

Lovest thou not the gentle Adriel?
Ah, sister, the Meholathite hath found
Grace in thy sight, or else thy cheeks do lie.

MERAB

And thine, if David be not dear to thee.

MICHAL

Didst thou not watch him fill his shepherd's scrip
With pebbles from the brook, and run with staff
And whirling sling in hand, to front Goliath?
Didst thou not hear him cry that all Philistia
Should learn there is a God in Israel?
I wept with joy and dread by turns to see it,
And hid my face, until the troopers shouted;
And then I looked and saw him set his foot
Upon Goliath's neck, and draw that sword
And hew the monster's head off from the trunk

As some frail forester might fell an oak.
Would that he loved me! But he knows me not.

MERAB

He needs must love thee if he knew thee, Michal.
And he shall know thee. I will go to Saul,
Our father, tell him I love Adriel,
And if this youth must wed with one of us
It must be thee. Beloved Jonathan
Will help along our plans; and well we know
The king is ruled by him. Let us away—
Our hearts shall both beat happily to-day.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*The same.* MICHAL. *Enter* DAVID.

MICHAL

What brought thee here to me?

DAVID

A wish to see thee.

Jonathan gave me leave.

MICHAL

And having seen me?

DAVID

Here would I tarry if thou dost permit.

MICHAL

If not?

DAVID

I go.

MICHAL

To leave me here alone?

DAVID

Alone thou canst not be. For since I saw thee,
In princely virgin robe of many colors,

Breasting the morning when the sun is gentle,
Upon the hill, my thoughts have been with thee.

MICHAL

Tell me now, David, what thou thinkest of me,
Unless it would not please me.

DAVID [*Sings*]

Thou dearer art to me
Than are the ruddy beams to morn,
That every dewy drop adorn
As jewels be.

Thou dearer art than showers
Of gentle dropping are to spring,
That swelling buds and verdure bring
And fields of flowers.

The early beams above
Bring light to morn ; the vernal rain
Brings beauty, life, and richest gain—
Thou bringest love.

MICHAL

'Tis beautiful if it was meant for me.
But if 'twas meant to please another maiden—
It was not pretty to repeat it me.

DAVID

'Twas meant for thee alone. I know none other,
And not, until I saw thee, thought of any.
I live a life of deepest solitude,
Guarding the sheep I tend ; save now and then
Some mystic traveler, upon a camel
Swaying from side to side with rolling pace,
Comes to my tent for shelter from the night.

MICHAL

How dost thou pass the time?

DAVID

Watching the sheep
Or warding dangers off. A bear one day,
Falling upon us, seized a petted lamb.
I followed him, and smote him till the lamb

Dropped from his jaws; and when he rose against me
I bearded him, and slew him there and flayed him.

MICHAL

Is it not dreadful?

DAVID

No, the Lord is with me
Most in the wilds, and least where men are gathered.
I tend the sheep, and feel that I myself
Am one among a flock Jehovah keepeth.
My days are filled with strains from Nature's lips:
Breezes which, with their airy fingers, touch
The pendent forest leaves, or, swiftly sweeping,
Twang the taut branches; songs of joyous birds
That thrill aloft in furious ecstasy;
While, from the far-off sea, the throbbing waves
Measure the moments as they fleet along.
When flaming day is gone and heaven's floor

With God's unnumbered embers bright is strewn,
I sleep upon a patch of tender grass,
Upon the borders of a rivulet,
Where sweet composure the vexed earth surrounds,
And all the air is filled with gentle noise
Of sheep at rest, and insects humming lightly,
And rhythmic lapping of the running water,
Which seems to flow along my veins and bathe
My body with a clean and cool refreshment.
But, Michal, now the plains are desolate.

MICHAL

And all our tents seem uninhabited
When thou art gone. But we must talk no more.

Enter SAUL *and* ABNER. *They whisper to themselves.*

SAUL

What does he tell her?

ABNER

Lies about the bear.

SAUL

He slew Goliath on the plain of Elah.

ABNER

Goliath died of sheer astonishment.
It nearly killed me, too. Set him a task—
Say one who seeks thy daughter's hand must bring
A worthy dowry, and that he is poor.
Send him to snatch him wealth at Shaarraim;
I warrant he will not return alive.
And we shall know 'twas not the Lord, but chance,
That helped him win his victory at Elah.

SAUL

I fear the Lord is with him.
[*Addressing* DAVID] David, bring
The proving of an hundred Philistines
Slain by thyself, and I will give thee Michal.
Not wealth, but honor be thy dowry, boy—
Tarry not, begone.

DAVID

The hundred men
Who stand between myself and this thy daughter
Shall pay the forfeit. Fare thee well, my lord,
And thee, sweet Michal. I shall soon return.

ABNER

Let him who girds his battle-harness on
Not boast himself as he who puts it off.

[*Exit* DAVID *with* MICHAL.

SAUL

Since Merab hath been given to another
Michal must cause his downfall. For he seems
A constant menace and reproach to me.

ABNER

He'll trouble thee no more; for these Philistines
Will make their bread of him.

SCENE V.—*The same. At the gate of the city.*

MICHAL *and* JONATHAN.

MICHAL

Will David surely come again in safety?
Tell me, Jonathan, there is naught to fear.

JONATHAN

Well, this I will say: I had rather have
His chance of triumph than the chance of any
Among the hundred living. There is comfort.
But dost thou truly love him, little sister,
Or doth thy heart but trip to some new tune?
Life without love is like a journey taken
Along a way unknown; with love 'tis swift,
Like the returning. Thou art proud of spirit,
And David masterful. He may not please thee.
Not wilfulness but love should light the way.

MICHAL

Brother mine, thy love, thy wife, and children
Have filled my life till now. But now—I fear—

I love him not—and yet when he is gone
My heart is sad. When thinkest he returns?

JONATHAN

What sound is that?

MICHAL

The women crying "David!
David!! David!!!" Is it not his name?
He is returning. He hath slain the men.
Can it be that he hath failed? No, no!
The cry is "David! Victor!! Conqueror!!!"

JONATHAN

It is he. Let us await his coming, here.
How grand he seems, aglow with youth and triumph!
And, Michal, he hath triumphed over foes
Worse than Philistines. Here the women come.

Enter a TROOP OF WOMEN *in gala attire, dancing and singing.*

WOMEN

Saul hath slain his thousands

And David his tens of thousands.
They who hate the Lord
Flee before his sword—
Flee till, robbed of breath,
All are hewn to death.
No Philistines live to tell
How he leveled wall and well.

Enter DAVID *and troopers.*

DAVID

Such over-praise is worse than none at all.
I pray you cease.

MICHAL

Hast slain an hundred men?

DAVID

Yes; and I bring the proofs in twice-full tale.

JONATHAN

Stay thou with Michal here, and I will seek
Our father. Let the crowd at once disperse.

[*Exeunt* WOMEN *and* JONATHAN.

DAVID

I come to claim thee, Michal. Shall I fling
Over thy head the banner of my love?

MICHAL

At times I think me ready, and at times
I tremble lest, in changing my estate,
I shall but make myself and thee unhappy.
Do not be angry, David.

DAVID

No, not I.
I guessed as much. A ship that beats the tempest
Sweeps onward, back and forth, with swelling canvas;
But when she swings her prow to change the tack,
The sail, uncertain, flaps against the mast.
And so thy heart, as strong and true, will throb
As wife or maiden, tho it flutter now
Because thy hastening feet must leave the path
Thy happy childhood knew.

MICHAL

How couldst thou guess
That I would tell thee of my doubtings, David?

DAVID

Oh, there are ways; and sweethearts keep us guessing
At many things—most what they think of us.

MICHAL

I know a simple, truthful little love song,
Learned anew since last I saw thee here;
Wilt thou listen whilst I sing it for thee?

DAVID

With all my ears, and all my heart, too, Michal.

MICHAL

Now, do not be provoked; for, tho 'tis truthful,
It ends with loving words, and prettily.

[*Song*]

I think of thee when morning breaks,
When early sunbeams creep
Along the earth, and nature wakes—
If I am not asleep.

I think of thee throughout the hours
When life's excitements rage,
When thronging bees and birds and flowers—
Do not my thoughts engage.

But when, at quiet eventide,
The night-born breezes free
In whispered plaints their loves confide,
I think of only thee.

DAVID

There's for each saucy stanza (*patting her on each cheek*), there, for the sweet one (*kissing her*).

But come, my Michal, we must be preparing
Against our wedding, lest thy sprightly fancy
Be otherwise engaged.

[*Exeunt* DAVID *and* MICHAL *together.*

SCENE VI.—*The same.* SAUL. ABNER *leaving him and* JONATHAN *approaching.*

JONATHAN

David returns with twice one hundred slain—
Philistine men—and claims thy promise now,
To give him Michal.

SAUL

Where hath David buried
All these our foemen slaughtered by him? Saul
Hath slain his thousands, David his tens of thousands.
Runs it not so?

JONATHAN

If Abner come as herald.

SAUL

It is what happened. What can this thy David
Have further but the kingdom? Would he were slain!

JONATHAN

Sin not against him, father; he hath sinned
Nothing toward thee, but all his works have been
To thee-ward very good. He staked his life
And slew Goliath. Thou didst rejoice in it.
Why sin against his blood to take his life?
And, tho the sin toward him may be forgiven,
Who shall intreat for sins against the Lord?

SAUL

Nay, I exclaimed in haste and rage at talk
Of armies slaughtered with his virgin sword.

JONATHAN

The women's singing David checked at once,
Saying that blame were better than such praise.
'There came to camp a messenger to-day
With news of vast Philistine armies gathered
Along our borders, threatening invasion.
If thou or I should fall, on whom could either,

Surviving, lean? Our wisest counsellors
Are brutish; keen for evil, but for good
Lacking all knowledge. Double-tongued Abner
Winnows with every wind. He would not help.
Cant, catch-calls, and corruption are his stock,
Wherewith he cheats the people to his profit.
The Lord approveth David. All the army
Follow him gladly at the King's command.
And he doth laud thee to them, calling thee
The grace of Israel who hath decked her daughters
In ornaments of gold and cloth of scarlet;
Swift as the eagle, mighty as the lion,
Beating the foe as dust before the tempest;
Making thy people rest until the morning.
No new-born grace is his, but courtesy
Deep-rooted in the past. And Michal loves him;
But now we meet him, come in modest triumph.
I see them there by yonder ancient cedar,
And crave that I may call and thou wilt bless
them.

SAUL

Nothing can I deny thee, Jonathan.
For, since thy childhood, thou to me hast been
A ray of sunshine gladdening mine eyes.
Go, my son, and call the lovers hither.
If he will swear that he will never fail
In loyalty to thee when I am gone,
As God doth live, his life shall not be taken.
The Lord hath poured His favor thick upon him,
And he can aid us.

JONATHAN

I will fetch them hither.

[*Exit* JONATHAN.

SAUL (*Alone*)

"Swifter than eagle, mightier than lion,
Driving the foe as chaff before the whirlwind—"

Reenter JONATHAN *with* DAVID *and* MICHAL.

Come, children. [*To* DAVID] I have learned of thy success;

I welcome thee as son. But swear to me
That when my Jonathan shall be the king
Thou wilt serve him, honor and sustain him always,
As God shall prosper thee.

DAVID

As thou requirest
So do I swear, as God shall prosper me.

SAUL [*to* DAVID]

After the law of Moses, take her, David,
According to the custom.
[*To* JONATHAN] Frame a blessing,
And I will say amen.

JONATHAN

Jehovah grant
Enough, and wisdom. May He bless your lives
In youth with children, in age with children's children.
May she be to thee as Ruth to Boaz,
Whom, in her toil, Naomi's daughter gleaned.

May both, in Bethlehem, become as famed
As these from whom thou springest; may you do
As worthily in Ephrathah.

SAUL

Amen.

So may the blessing rest upon you.

ACT II

SCENE I.—*The same.* SAUL *and* ABNER.

ABNER

Rumor spreads that Samuel once anointed David at Bethlehem. I know not what it may mean. But he grows so great with victories, with women's talk, with Jonathan's alliance, and, most of all, because of his marrying with Michal, that all the people look to see him king when you are dead, or, possibly, deposed. Who knows what he plots? And Jonathan would fall in with anything which looked to David's welfare. I do not speak now of certainties, but tell what I hear reported, and feel bound to bring to you.

SAUL

Yes, but his oath. He swore that he would serve and honor Jonathan when I am gone.

ABNER

Aye, but already was anointed. Possibly the thing augurs nothing.

SAUL

Augurs nothing? Whom beside has the prophet Samuel ever anointed with his oil, barring myself? Tell me how you heard of it?

ABNER

I overheard David telling Jonathan.

SAUL

And therefore told me that all the people report it?

ABNER

Yes. I count it mere boasting. Can you think such a tale is truthful?

SAUL

Who can say? The Lord is with David.

ABNER

And the prince; and, if I may add it, the king.

SAUL

What have I done?

ABNER

Married David with Michal.

SAUL

She loves him dearly.

ABNER

What is love in royal marriage? Policy should rule all alliances within your house. Our country is new in kingcraft. Not a king of Philistia seeks a wife, or gives son or daughter, nephew, niece, or farther relative, but looks to things of moment to swell his state withal. So should you. There is Palti: rich, a loyal subject, a worthy son-in-law to a king. I urged him. He was passed by, and David was picked instead. What will David add to your throne?

SAUL

Far more than Palti could add. That puny son

of Laish! If one should say, "Leave following your wife, for I will take her," he'd turn tail. What stuff's in Palti to found a royal line?

ABNER

Oh, if the succession be not through Jonathan, David were best—and readiest to seize it.

SAUL

What can I do?

ABNER

Declare David's marriage void.

SAUL

Will not God be moved to anger?

ABNER

Can man profit God? We fool ourselves with fictions. Whosoever is wise will profit himself and afterward square accounts. Take Michal back. She may like his vaporings about lions and bears slain and flayed (tho no one ever has seen a skin or a carcass).

But all this is childish fancy. David thinks of nothing save religious dances and feasts. He composes psalms about himself or about your shortcomings; sings them everywhere. She will tire of his hypocrisy. And, should David prove a Jacob, that supplanter who cheated Esau, and make the anointing an occasion to juggle Jonathan out of the crown, he will trouble her with other marriages, or, mayhap, with looser bonds.

SAUL

But what will Jonathan think? And will the army endure it?

ABNER

Leave the troops to me. Jonathan should accede, since all is done for him, and doubtless will. The prophet, and he alone, must know the meaning which lies beneath the anointing Ask of him.

SAUL

Samuel loves me not, and never has he sought me since that fierce affair of Agag. I shall not seek him. Do you go instead.

ABNER

And be cut in pieces like Agag, and perhaps my members be sent throughout all the land by Samuel to call the tribes to arms and seize the throne for David? No, the prophet loves me not; nor would answer me. But this anointing—it must have been about the time when Agag was slain by Samuel. Said he to you aught of the kingdom?

SAUL

Yes; he said the Lord had rent the kingdom from me; that He saw one after His heart whom He would have as ruler—a better than I. But that is long passed, and I am still king.

ABNER

And, following you, David or Jonathan ; what matters it which ? Both are sons.

SAUL

Sons with a difference ! I will go seek Samuel and know this portentous matter.

ABNER

Rumor reports that David hides now with Samuel. You know the thing to do should you find him there.

SAUL

Leave it to me to do as wisdom shall dictate.

ABNER

As to Michal ?

SAUL

Talk of that again. Leave me now.

[*Exit* ABNER.

With their mouths they show love, but still their yearning goes after gain. Abner is cunning, always seeking some private end under guise

of public service. And yet he reasons well,
and seems loyal toward me and my house;
and I must let him gain his advantage, for
the aid that he gives me. I may not muzzle
the ox that treads out the corn.

[*Exit.*

SCENE II.—*The same.* SAUL *and* JONATHAN *meeting.*

JONATHAN

Whither, my father, goest thou?

SAUL

To Samuel.

JONATHAN

What turns thy steps toward him at Ramah, father?
He hath not come to thee nor thou to him,
Since Agag paid the forfeit terribly
Beneath his sword at Gilgal. What he meant
I never knew, nor why his long retreat.

SAUL

'Tis this I seek to learn. If he should say
That God hath rent the kingdom, choosing one
Apart from thee, against my cherished wish,
As my successor, how wouldst thou receive it?

JONATHAN

With heavy heart.

SAUL

But if he named a claimant,
Wouldst thou submit?

JONATHAN

Shall mortal man oppose
The agent called to do the work of God?
Or he who holds the crown by God's decree
Rebel against His own ordained successor?
Our kings will come and go in Israel;
For God is over all, and, under Him,
The regal mantle falls upon the fittest.

SAUL

Who is so fit as thou? A prince in blood,
Familiar with affairs of state, and trained
From boyhood up in kingly polity;
Inured to warfare; raised above temptation
To favor factions; seeking only justice
For all the people. If, with each succession,

The king must be put forth by some new house,
Rivalry, fierce and wild, will rend the kingdom,
And order yield to chaos.

JONATHAN

Doth the crown
Endure for generations? If the people
But seek the common weal, yielding advantage
When state concern requires the sacrifice,
The choice of king will follow God's direction.
Whoever rules, a station near the throne
Is sure to fall to me by common suffrage.

SAUL

Better unplaced than second.

JONATHAN

Yes, in pride,
But not in service. Israel is still
Jehovah's kingdom. Every man who does
The work appointed serves the Lord. Not place,
But power; zeal, not show of service, tells.
For God doth measure men by what they are.

SAUL

Why, Jonathan, dost thou, at every turning,
Thwart my purpose, and so interfere
Against thine own advantage? I believe
That David would supplant thee. Hath he not
Told thee of his anointing?

JONATHAN

Not as king.

SAUL

Art thou blind? The ceremony means
A choice as king or nothing. Would the prophet
Have sought him out, besmeared his locks with oil,
And filled his thoughts with fancied preference,
Without a purpose? Hold thyself aloof,
He plainly seeks thy hurt.

JONATHAN

The prophet found thee
Little in thine own sight, and made thee king

Of all the tribes. From those who rudely cried,
"This man shall not rule over us!" arousing
Rebellious clamor, hast thou not enforced
Submission?

SAUL

Pray, will you tell me, what's the purport?

JONATHAN

If chosen thus, and with the oil anointed,
To be the keeper of God's covenant,
The shepherd of His people, may not David
Require of one and all obedience?

SAUL

Why should the old recluse immured at Ramah
Have put his flesh-hook in? The kingship falls
By easy preference upon thy shoulders,
And they are broad enough to carry it.
Until I see the prophet, hold thyself
Apart from David. Give him no assurance.
I'll learn the truth.

JONATHAN

And learning, yield submission?

SAUL

Enough of this. Do thou the rather frame
Thy mind to heed my wishes. All my thoughts
Are fixed on thy advancement. Why should I
Be thwarted? Answer not. I seek the prophet.

[*Exit* SAUL.

JONATHAN [*alone*]

O, may Jehovah, Lord of hosts, prepare
Thy heart to do His will. Farewell, my father.
Misgivings torture me. Our intercourse
Hath been as lovers. Is the hour striking,
When thou and I must follow parting ways,
Or must I quit, for thee, the better course?
Farewell, farewell, farewell! Jehovah guide thee
Along the path that leads to perfect peace.

[*Exit* JONATHAN.

SCENE III.—*Ramah* (*Naioth*). SAMUEL *alone*.

Enter SAUL.

SAMUEL

What purpose brings thee here?

SAUL

I come to learn
The will of God, from thee His greatest prophet.
Our scouts report the enemy as massing
Beyond the Jordan. Should thy servant suffer
The fate that lies in wait for every man,
Who then shall fill his seat; and what shall he
Arrange against the chances?

SAMUEL

Who art thou?

SAUL

The Lord's anointed.

SAMUEL

Like the sow that is washed,
And wallows again in mire.

SAUL

Samuel,

I am the king. Thy rule hath been rejected.

SAMUEL

It was not me they scorned ; it was Jehovah.
What God directed, that I did. But thou,
A rabble server, bringest the curse which falls
When slaves are throned as monarchs. Comest thou here
To learn the will of God with aim to do it,
Or, learning, wouldst thou impotently seek
To thwart it? Once before, yea, more than once,
Thou, knowing God's command, didst yet prefer
Thine own devices. Hast thou changed thine heart,
Or is it set on some accomplishment
Where thou wouldst have my favor?

SAUL

What devices
Dost thou recall?

SAMUEL

For one, thy sparing Agag,
After Jehovah made His fixed decree
That he and all his followers, his flocks,
Women and suckling babes, should die.

SAUL

My heart
Was sorely moved for him.

SAMUEL

Thy melting pity
Savored of thrift. For all the weakly ones,
The women, babes, and scrawny beasts were slain;
The choicest camels, sheep, and kine were spared,
And cruel mincing Agag brought alive
To make a triumph.

SAUL

'Twas a stern decree.

SAMUEL

Jehovah made it. Look how Joshua

Fulfilled a like command, and made a heap
Of Ai, where he left them none to breathe.

Often Jehovah's anger was enkindled
Against the people, seeing every man
Do what was pleasing in his eyes ; such crimes
As Sodom and Gomorrah wrought and burned for.
Wherefore He sold them many times in bondage.
The hands of spoilers spoiled them. Sisera
Laid the whole land so waste that travelers
Walked in the byways. War was in the gates
Of all the cities. Midian encamped
Against them, reaping every year the harvest,
Until nor ox nor ass nor sheep was left,
Nor sustenance throughout all Israel.

At times there rose as judges godly men,
Jerubbaal, Ehud, Barak, Othniel,
Bedan, and Jephthah ; I was one of these.
With them Jehovah wrought deliverance.

But still his chosen people fell again,
And worshiped idols, Ashtaroth and Baal,
A pretty god for every town and hamlet;
Tho of the darkened nations all around,
Not one hath changed its gods which are not gods.
Even the very ark itself was taken
To force by wonders worked a swift return.

So, when the people clamored for a king,
And I at God's command anointed thee
To be the prince of His inheritance
(The day that thou, missing thy father's asses,
Fluttered the maidens when the seer thou soughtest),
And I beheld thy stature, thou on whom
All the desire of Israel was rested,
I loved thee much, and hoped thy sway might serve
To roll the tide of disobedience back,
And keep the people from idolatry,

Till Shiloh come and fill the yearning earth
With grace of God, as waters fill the sea

But God regardeth not the outward show,
As man must judge; He looketh on the heart.
That people born of Esau, Amalek,
Whom He had sworn to war upon and blot
Out of man's memory, was made a test.
God gave thee glory rarely known before,
But asked, for sweeping victory, submission.
Yet thou didst spare the king, and keep the spoils
For bleating sacrifice, where God required
Obedience. When the Lord His people took,
As wayward children, by the hand to lead them
Out of Egyptian bondage, not to them
Spake He of offerings and sacrifice;
But "Hearken unto me," He said, "and walk
In all my ways, and I will be your God,
And ye my people."

Tho thy sin was great,
And I had fully cautioned Israel,
That, shouldst thou practise wickedness, thyself
And all would be consumed, yet, none the less,
When God revealed His wrath in prayer, I wrestled,
That He, who had forgiven us from Egypt
Even till now, might turn His anger back.
But He foreknew the end of such beginning.
The modesty, the singleness of aim,
The rugged majesty that marked thee out
Fitly a king, are frecked, disfigured, shattered.
For low ambition, petty policy,
Paltry excuses spun to cloak thy weakness,
Have raveled out thy mind. God needs thee not.
Like the false light that comes before the morning,
Thou must pass. The Lord in anger gave thee
And in His wrath He taketh thee away.
For He hath found another implement

Fitter to chisel out His grand design,
And thou art cast aside.

SAUL

My God! My God!
Why hath He turned His face away from me?
My sin is great, but I repent of it
In dust and ashes! Shall a king be whelmed
Like a poor merchant, whom a single act
Of folly steeps in ruin?

SAMUEL

Not thy acts
Have wrought thy downfall. Disobedience,
Rebellion, stubbornness, the reckless will
That brought thee here to question God's decree
And compass David's death—'tis this destroys
The part of thee that might have stood; the end
Will follow soon. Thinkst thou the matter light
That thou shouldst break the bond of God's control,
And waste the blessings promised? Is it light

That thou shouldst tempt the Lord to pour upon us,
In all its wrath, the curse pronounced by Moses :
That even the gentle breezes bearing rain
Shall turn to the whirlwind, driving sand and hail ;
Our towns be compassed round with savage foes,
Their very tongue unknown ; our loving men
Shall turn an evil eye on all held dear ;
Our tender women, who, for daintiness,
Would not adventure even to touch the ground,
Shall fain devour the little ones that come
Between their feet ; and that God's chosen people,
Tossing among the nations to and fro,
At last shall sell themselves unto their foes,
And none shall buy them?

SAUL

But, my son?

SAMUEL

The Lord

Will care for Jonathan. Jehovah sends me
Hither and thither; something I divine
From such employment; naught beyond is known.

SAUL

Is there, then, nothing Jonathan or I
Can do to save the throne of Israel?
No one than he is fitter. I will place
Upon his head the crown that I have lost.
Yea, I will yield my life, as Aaron did
What time his mantle fell on Eleazer.
For I have loved him since I felt his breath
Sweet with his mother's milk. His little feet
That knew not how to walk, his boastful boyhood
And his majestic manhood— Thou hast loved him.
Why should he, too, be punished? For the law
Of Moses teaches for the father's sins
The children shall not suffer.

SAMUEL

Yet the sinful
May bring down evil on the sinless head.
Not all the piety of Eli saved
His household when his sons did wickedly;
I, too, have suffered, but perhaps with guilt.
Thy horn is broken. On another's head
Have I the holy ointment poured, and he
Shall rule when thou art gone.

SAUL

Is all the honor
Which God has heaped upon my house departed?
The rains descend, the waters wear the hills,
The yawning ocean swallows all at last;
Of no avail is anything that is.
Jehovah raised me from the dust of earth,
In highest places set my feet; He made me
To sit at princes' feasts, yet casts me off
As one that is a hireling when he is old.
Who after me shall wield the scepter?

SAMUEL

David,
Whom thou wouldst slay, but God will keep
from harm.

SAUL

If aught that I have ever done hath pleased thee,
Here take my life, and give me burial
In this thy solitude, as God on Nebo
Granted to Moses; so that I may hide
The shame upon me. As the moving waters
Fail from the sea, the river drieth up,
So may I sink and waste, and none shall say,
"Where is he?" Let me die and rise no more.
Not till the heavens fall let me be roused
Out of my sleep. For I am one whose hope
Is in the grave.

[SAUL *strips off his clothing and falls down.*

SAMUEL

The Lord will soon enough
Require thy soul. The shame is light. Thy load

Of wickedness is more than thou canst bear.
O weak and wretched man! Seek thou forgiveness
While life remains. May God have mercy on thee.

ACT III

SCENE I.—*Near Gibeah.* JONATHAN *alone.*

Enter DAVID.

DAVID

What have I done? What is my wickedness
Wherefore the king, thy father, seeks my life?
As my soul lives, there's but a step between
Me and death.

JONATHAN

Saul can not seek thy life.

DAVID

He came to Naioth, where, with Samuel,
I lay in hiding. Thrice he sent his servants.
Within the prophet's holy presence, all
Were moved to prophecy. At last the king
In person sought the seer, and on him came
The spirit; all that day and all that night
He lay upon the ground and prophesied;

And men who saw, in wonder asked, "Is Saul,
Also, among the prophets?" Thus the Lord
His purpose turned aside, that I might live.

JONATHAN

He went to Samuel to learn God's will.
He loved thee much. But now he dreads thy prowess,
And hears in awe those mighty psalms of thine
That call the wrath of God upon the wicked.
To-morrow we begin to celebrate
The waxing moon; and, at the feast, thy presence
Is certainly expected. There, I hope
That I may make between the king and thee
A reconciliation.

DAVID

Jonathan,
I must remain away.

JONATHAN

Thy reason, David?

DAVID

Dost thou recall the fabled wasp alighted
Upon a farmer's wagon? When the man
Upraised his cap to strike, "Wherefore," said it,
"Dost thou prepare to kill me? I am here
With best of feeling." "Though thy feeling be
All that thou sayest," said the farmer, striking,
"How do I know but that, before we reach
Our journey's end, thou wilt sting me?"

JONATHAN

What's the moral?

DAVID

Never consort with men who fear thee. Now
If from the coming feast the king should miss me,
Say that I earnestly requested leave
To run to Bethlehem, my city, where
A yearly sacrifice is being held
By all my family. Should he say, "'Tis well,"
Then have I peace. But should his anger rise,
Then am I sure that ill is planned against me.

So much I ask because we swore together.
But if in me iniquity is found
Thyself shalt slay me here. For why shouldst thou
Bring me before thy father?

JONATHAN

Have thy wish.
Look thou at yonder rocks called Ezel, crowned
With trees that show the simple lines of winter.
Thinkest that I can shoot an arrow there?

DAVID

I can, if thou canst not.

JONATHAN

I take the challenge.

[*They shoot.*

My arrow falls beyond.

DAVID

And mine falls short.

JONATHAN

Hide there at sunrise on the second day

When I shall hither come for archery,
Attended by a lad ; I, toward the rocks,
As tho it were at mark, will shoot three arrows.
As the lad shall run to fetch them, if I call :
" Behold, they lie beyond thee !" go thy way.
But if I call : " The arrows lie this side !"
As God doth live, peace and not harm awaits thee.

DAVID

Dear Jonathan, my life is in thy hand ;
'Tis safer there than in my own, and I
Would make thee keeper of my head forever.
But now I feel, looking to thee for help,
That thou shouldst know the truth. The seer at Ramah
Revealed the meaning hidden underneath
The ceremony, when he poured the oil
Upon my head in Bethlehem.

JONATHAN

Of which
Thou hast already told me?

DAVID

Yes, when I
Toppled Goliath over. Saul has learned
The meaning, too.

JONATHAN

At Ramah?

DAVID

Yes.

JONATHAN

My David,
Thou needst not fear to speak the truth to me.
Is not God's oath between us? Tell me, then,
If He will make thee king instead of me.

DAVID

God's gifts are tempered when they are bestowed.
After full many years of toil they come;
Or, if in youth, then bringing sacrifice,
That they may be worn with meekness. Otherwise

The heart is made unmannerly, and all
The fruit is changed to ashes. Here we stand,
Brothers in law and love. To thee the crown
Should come by due succession ; yet to me
It is decreed. My heart is sadly chastened
Thus to supplant thee. God's unchanging will
Can not be turned aside. But thou shalt be
My keeper over all, and in the throne
Only will I exceed, as Pharaoh Joseph.

JONATHAN

Will the king submit? Will all the pack
That fawn upon him yelp him on to ruin?
Will both of us survive the mighty shock
Should he attempt to force from me resistance?
The foes of David, flatterers of Saul,
Every one at war with Jonathan,
Will press my claim, relying on my virtue
To compass my destruction. Now the curse
That Saul declared is poised. Of what avail
Are love and faith and service? God hath forged

Out of my buckler bolts that pierce my heart.
Without a place of refuge must I run
Hither and hither. Swear to me again
That thou wilt never cut thy kindness off
From me, my wife, and little ones.

DAVID

I swear
By great Jehovah. Yonder rocks of Ezel
Shall stand as witness, hearing all the vows
That we have spoken. Like the altar raised
By all the tribes that dwell beyond the Jordan,
These stones shall show that God, in choosing me,
Hath not a border set between our seed
That thou shouldst have no portion. Courage, brother!
God is a shield to them that trust in Him;
And, like the wayward swallow still a-wing,
The curse without a cause alighteth not.
The Lord will slay the wicked ones that strew

Our paths with adders' fangs. But he will search
Our thoughts, and surely show us how to tread
The perfect way.

JONATHAN

I go to seek the king.
The hand of Saul shall never find thee, David.
But do not chafe under the checks that hold
Ambition back ; for life is all too changeful.
Men do not live forever. Youth can wait
Until the footfalls of retiring age
Are lost in silence, and still run his race.
After that Saul is gone, and thou becomest
A king among the people, like a river
That doth bedew its banks and rageth not
(Where trees may spread their roots, nor fear the heat,
Bearing blossom, leaf, and grateful fruit
Alike in years of drouth and years of rain),
If thou wilt have me serve thee then, 'tis well,
Since we have both of us together sworn

That God the Lord shall be between thy seed
And my seed, me and thee forever.

DAVID

Faithful,
Beloved Jonathan, farewell.

[*Exeunt severally.*

ACT IV

SCENE I.—*Gibeah.* ABNER. *Enter* DOEG.

ABNER

Is all well?

DOEG

All is well.

ABNER

What news spurs to such haste?

DOEG

Samuel lies at Ramah—dead.

ABNER

As any Nobite?

DOEG

Yes, priests and all.

ABNER

Well, what else? Met you any one worthy of mention?

DOEG

Some miles below, David—turned toward Bethlehem.

ABNER

Send Eshbaal and Palti here. Tell them the news requires haste. Hold your peace about David, but spread Samuel's death through the town, that Israel may mourn. Hasten.

[*Exit* DOEG.

Who threw the stone into David's bowl? It was his proper time to flee. Palti is only a spider to sting him with, and perhaps anger him into rebellion. As for Eshbaal, he will not stand the hair-test; but Saul will be so angered at David's flight, and so strengthened by Samuel's death, that he will agree to anything should Jonathan hold out.

Enter PALTI

My Palti, you shall wed Michal forthwith.

PALTI

What shall I do?

ABNER

Nothing, most worthy Palti. And, above all, lest you muddle everything, say nothing; let the word die within you. Have no fear, it will not burst you. When I send word betake yourself to Michal.

PALTI

But what will David and Michal do to me?

ABNER

Idyllic quarrels you must settle, my Palti. Leave David to me. I will arrange the thing with Saul. To be a princely son-in-law is worth —even marriage. Noble Palti, go.

[*Exit* PALTI. *Enter* ESHBAAL.

ABNER

The seer is dead.

[*Cries of mourning without.*

ESHBAAL

All the people mourn him, the grandest prophet since Moses.

ABNER

Well, let them mourn. Pressure of affairs stifles sorrow. The warrior - politician - prophet dead, David's hope dies with him. Who, now, will tell of that anointing, or believe it if told? You, Saul, Jonathan and I—no others hold it certain, barring David; and Jonathan must side with us. Would you be king?

ESHBAAL

Jonathan will not side with us.

ABNER

Let him go. Why force him to take a crown which he despises. Think of David, that captain of malcontents and beggars gathered up from every cranny of Judea, made king, and picking his ministers from out his rab-

ble! What respect shall we men of weight and substance find in such a motley crew? It shall not be. David has bored Jonathan's ear, and holds him slave for life. They can not meet but Jonathan must be unshoeing himself. You shall take his place.

ESHBAAL

But will Saul accede? When he returned from Ramah he seemed resigned or dead to all hope.

ABNER

Because your father has eaten sour grapes, must your teeth be set on edge? Besides, he must accede. You know his temper. Jonathan with him rules him; Jonathan away, anger lashes Saul to fury. When Saul has caught the import of Samuel's death, which I will forcibly expound, David shall envy the fox his hole to hide him in; and, if we catch him sunning, we will not smite the

fellow twice. When the king is gone hunting with David, Jonathan will lose control of his temper—and of Saul. What say you, Eshbaal?

ESHBAAL

Both Melchishua and Abinidab, being elder, should be preferred before me.

ABNER

The younger cattle feed in the front. You of all your father's sons alone sustain him. Remember, the heel of the slow is scarred. Press on and the crown is yours. Now go, prepare for the feast.

ESHBAAL

Does David come?

ABNER

I trust so, but do not surely know. I shall seek the king, to tune his mind to our plans.

[*Exeunt severally.*

SCENE II.—*The same.* SAUL *and* ABNER.

ABNER

Your chief herdsman, Doeg, who dispatched the herd of priests caught assisting David, reports Samuel dead at Ramah.

SAUL

I heard the wailing, and learned the news.

ABNER

It is a happy chance; David's claim dies with Samuel.

SAUL

How?

ABNER

For lack of proof. The claim is based on the anointing, which no one knows of excepting David's family, and yours, and myself. Their word will stand for nothing, and we will all deny it.

SAUL

Yes, all excepting Jonathan, whose yea will stand against a world of nays.

ABNER

But Jonathan will take the crown, or will yield the place apparent to a more filial son—Melchishua, Abinidab, Eshbaal, as you choose. One must be selected.

SAUL

When were you appointed anointer? Did Ramah's seer bequeath his prophet's horn to you?

ABNER

Have your fling. Then consider this: Jonathan rejects the crown; David, he approving, claims it; we oppose. How can we make headway without a head? All will be one to you, but I will not submit that a king be made of this Moabitish thorn.

SAUL

Quite right. For you to have a royal cousin serves you instead of kingly place. If David were king, Joab would be his Abner, would pluck the plums that David missed, and would find the gleanings better than all your vintage.

ABNER

Ever so it has been since Jonathan bowed the knee to David.

SAUL

What has been?

ABNER

That your friends are put to shame, and your enemies rejoiced; and so it will be until a son appointed to take your place is named—

SAUL

It is Jonathan.

ABNER

—And shirks it not.

SAUL

He shall not shirk it. I tell you this: if at the coming feast, finding occasion, you stir discord up with David, prompt some act that may appear to be directed toward my person, on the flash I will pin him where he sits.

[*Noise without.*

ABNER

What call is that?

Enter PALTI

We might pick a quarrel over Palti.

PALTI

Nay, by your leave.

ABNER

We will start no strife for you to carry on.

SAUL

If nothing better offer, he will do.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—*Gibeah. The Feast of the New Moon. Enter a procession of* PRIESTS, *chanting.*

PRIESTS

Sing aloud unto God our strength ;
Make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob.
Take up a psalm and bring hither the timbrel,
The pleasant harp, with the psaltery.
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon,
In the time appointed, our solemn feast day ;
For 'tis a statute of the house of Jacob,
It is an ordinance of the God of Israel.

[*Exeunt procession of* PRIESTS.

Enter COOKS, *with caldrons, firewood, meats, etc. They prepare the feast and spread the table. They sing.*

COOKS

Pick the choicest from the flock,
Sparing neither lamb nor wether ;

Pile the fuel, branch and stock,
Burning wood and bones together.

Heat the caldron till it boil,
Fill it full of thigh and shoulder;
Feed the flames with fat and oil,
Never let the fire smolder.

[*Exeunt* COOKS.

Enter ABNER, *with* ESHBAAL, PALTI, DOEG, *and* ADRIEL. ABNER *seats the others.*

ABNER

The king will come soon. This seat upon his left is mine; Eshbaal next to me; Adriel next; Palti and Doeg will sit across from you, leaving next to Saul, and upon his right hand, a place for princely David; for he seeks the seat of honor from the king. Jonathan must needs take the farther end.

Enter MELCHISHUA *and* ABINADAB.

Melchishua, seat yourself to the right of the

place reserved for Jonathan, and you, Abinadab, upon the left.

Enter ARMONI *and* MEPHIBOSHETH.

The sons of Rizpah will sit upon either side, near the farther end. Guess, my friends, a riddle: Who is it eats the fat and drinks the sweet himself, and sends what is left to them that lack?

DOEG

David, who eats all of the meat and leaves the bones for the rest of us to gnaw upon.

ABNER

Scarcely timely. Adriel, give us a song while we are awaiting the king. Come, tho your voice be ever so tuneful, to hear you is not worth coaxing for.

ADRIEL (*sings*)

Ho! for a feast when the moon is new,
With hearty cheer and friendship true,

And wine that sparkles like the dew,
And lightens every face.

But when the moon is thin and old,
And the midnight sky is dark and cold,
It is, oh ! for rest in the time untold,
And a grave in a sheltered place.

Enter SAUL.

SAUL

Thy song, my son, would rival somber Egypt,
Where, at a feast, a death's-head fills a place
To check the bubbling flow of jollity.
Snatch joy ; it will not wait the seeker's hand.
[*All rise.*

ALL

Welcome, mighty ruler.

SAUL

Welcome all,
My sons and friends. I greet you, each in turn ;
Melchishua, Abinadab, Armoni,

Adriel, Eshbaal, Mephibosheth,
Palti and Doeg, Cousin Abner—welcome,
Each one and all, to this our festival.
[*All seat themselves.*
But where are Jonathan and David?

ESHBAAL

Yonder
Jonathan appears.

Enter JONATHAN.

JONATHAN

My king and father.

SAUL

My well-beloved son.

[JONATHAN *starts to seat himself next to* SAUL, *on his right.*

ABNER

The seat reserved
For David.

[JONATHAN *goes to the farther end of the table and stands there.*

JONATHAN

Happy day to one and all.

How gay the feast appears! Good-morrow, Palti.

I never saw thee show so glad a face.

DOEG [*to* SAUL]

David is fleeing.

ABNER [*to* JONATHAN]

Palti weds with Michal.

JONATHAN

Palti weds Michal?

SAUL

David fled?

JONATHAN

No tongue

Is foul enough, save thine, to speak a thing

So gross. Is nothing held by thee as sacred?

Wife, husband, brother, sister, child—

Must all be sacrificed to thy designs,

That smell so rank the putrid odor stifles

The breath of all the people? Not so long
As I may live shall such a crime be done.

ABNER

Am I a dog's head so to be berated,
For kindness shown to thee and all thy house,
While thou wouldst set the throne of David up
From Dan to Beersheba?

SAUL

My son and cousin,
The pledge to Palti stands but partly made.
But David—saidst thou, Doeg, David flees?
He was not purified, and therefore comes not.
Tell me, son.

JONATHAN

He asked my leave to go
To Bethlehem, where all his household keep
A yearly sacrifice; and, therefore, comes not.

SAUL

Son of a perverse and rebellious woman,
Hast thou not chosen him to thine own shame,

And to the shame of thy mother's nakedness?
While David lives upon the ground, thy kingdom
Will never be established. Therefore, send
And fetch him here, that he may surely die.

JONATHAN

Why should David be slain? What has he done?

SAUL

He is a rebel.

ABNER

Rebel!

SEVERAL

Rebel!

JONATHAN

Rebel,
Because the king rebels against Jehovah.

[SAUL *casts his javelin at* JONATHAN.

When traitors rend thee, call me back again.

[*Exit* JONATHAN. *The feast breaks up in confusion.*

ACT V

SCENE I.—*Gibeah. Enter* JONATHAN *and* ELHANAN, *a lad.*

ELHANAN

Will there be giants when I'm grown a man
As big as David?

JONATHAN

Yes, Elhanan, doubtless.

ELHANAN

I can sling a stone as straight as he.

JONATHAN

Then bide thy time, and thou wilt find a mark.

ELHANAN

I fear they'll all be killed.

JONATHAN

Nay, fear not so.
Each battle hath its giants; many lack
Their David. Let me see thee try thy skill.
Canst thou a pebble sling to yonder rocks?

ELHANAN

If I but find a stone will sail, I can.

JONATHAN

Here is a round and flat one. Do thy best ;
'Tis always worth thy while to hit the mark.

[ELHANAN *slings the stone.*

Well thrown. But couldst thou hit a giant there ?

ELHANAN

I'd run up closer.

JONATHAN

Let me try an arrow.

[JONATHAN *shoots.*

The wind blew that aside. Another, boy.

[*Shoots again.*

Too much allowance. Just one other try
For yonder tree-tip.

[*Shoots a third time.*

That was fairly shot.

ELHANAN

There's no one else could do it.

JONATHAN

Fetch them here.

[ELHANAN *runs for the arrows.*

Behold! The arrows lie beyond thee, boy.

Enter suddenly ABNER, DOEG *and* TROOPERS *in search of* DAVID.

ABNER

Whom dost thou look for?

JONATHAN

Answer me the question.

ABNER

I seek the traitor.

JONATHAN

I have found him here.

ABNER

Is David hereabout?

JONATHAN

Nay, Abner is.

ABNER

I hold commission from the king.

JONATHAN

And David
Commission from the King of kings.

ABNER

Produce it.

JONATHAN

Jehovah once was King in Israel.
He said to this one "Come," to that one "Go,"
And they obeyed. And, like a lion crouching
Or leaping from his lair, the mighty nation
Throughout the hosts opposing scattered dread.
Then rulers held from God their high commission.
How is it now? Philistine armies massed
Ready to spring upon us; from the North
Judgment approaching; in the farthest East
No hope appears.

DOEG

Our hope is hid with David,
And thou alone canst tell us where to search.
We hear he flees to Gath.

JONATHAN [*to* DOEG]

Go, seek him there.

ABNER [*to* DOEG]

If thou dost ne'er return 'tis something gained.

[*To* JONATHAN]

Hath not the king decreed? And thou, at least,
Shouldst know his will and not attempt to thwart it.

JONATHAN

I thwart him not. The king is sceptered right.
He may not let his wrath or cursed advisers
Seat themselves on his throne. The meanest subject
May front a king who thus unseats himself.

ABNER

He may, and lose his head—

JONATHAN

To save the state.
You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with wool.

You kill the fatlings, but feed not the sheep.
You do not heal the sick, nor bind the broken,
Nor in the desert seek the one that strays.
But he whom God hath set His seal upon
Is hunted like a partridge in the mountains.

[*To the* TROOPERS]

Ho! My men!
Turn you away from hunting David here
And follow me, your prince. This shifty Abner
Hath fooled the king to his own betterment.
The time is come when, like the elusive sand,
He and all they that follow him will slip
Here—there—away, and let the kingdom fall.
Stand you with me, or would you flee with him?

[*The* TROOPERS *range themselves with* JONATHAN.

TROOPERS

The prince! God save the Prince of Israel!

ABNER

The king will punish this.

JONATHAN

No hurt shall fall
On one of these while my head keeps its seat.

[*Exeunt* JONATHAN *and the* TROOPERS.

ABNER

Go, seek out David. I have other business.

[*Exit* ABNER.

DOEG

And I will seek for game that's safer found.

[*Exit* DOEG.

SCENE II.—*A wood in the wilderness of Ziph. Morning. Enter* JONATHAN.

JONATHAN

Here, said the message. I will plant my spear
And hang my cap upon it ; 'twas the signal.
Of all the kings of time the kingliest,
David must flee because our paths have crossed.
Here will I see him and will strengthen him,
Lest he despair.

Enter DAVID.

My David !

DAVID

Jonathan !

JONATHAN

Thou standest on the mountain fair of youth,
Whence all the kingdoms of the teeming earth,
And all their glory, seem within thy reach.
Thy day will surely come. But I, who long
To see its splendor even as they that watch

Await the morning, shall have gone the way
Where no returning footsteps ever fall.

DAVID

Let not the staff that I would lean upon
Be snatched from me, while I am toiling on
Unto the cold and lone and kingly summit!
My flagging footsteps halt, my hope is gone.
I cry aloud; and, in the vacant air,
My voice doth waste itself. Oh! brutal age,
That finds no fitting place for such a man!
If thou art gone, of whom shall I be king?
Or, lacking thee, how shall I learn to rule?
Flee, brother! let the host be slain, but save,
To prop my kingdom, that majestic form
Which long hath borne the brunt of every tempest
That beat upon the throne. Thy love would save me,
When on the dizzy height of power I stand,
From all the arrows that Philistine wars

Or fierce temptations aim. Be ruled, and fly !

JONATHAN

I could not live with such remembrance, David.
My course is straight and brief.

DAVID

Oh, bitter fate !
A kingdom flung at me with such rude force
That thou art slain beside me. I must pick
The fragments up and piece the throne together.

JONATHAN

The heavens, indeed, are black ! Thy star alone
Shines through a rift. Upon thy shoulders rests
The covenant of God with Israel,
The hope of all this world. Through thee must come
A universal brotherhood, where now
Each man doth turn his arm against his neighbor.
Not in all the earth hath one appeared
On whom such hope has rested. Art thou, David,

He that should come, or wait we for another?
Thy heart—is it so fair as thy fair face?
And is thy soul so high as thy great courage?
Canst thou upon thy slender body bear
The crushing weight of anguish cast on him
Whose single life shall change the heart of man?
Wilt thou wear out thy life, thy soul, thy heart,
Like Moses struggling toward the promised land?
Oh, brother! stand for God, tho all the herd
Shall trample thee to dust, or wife and children—
All who may claim a seat beside thy hearth—
Shall rend thee. Be a king in deed and truth,
Tho all thy subjects mock and buffet thee.
The wrong may seem to triumph, but the right
Is still eternal. God will teach thee judgment;
For thou art called of Him to feed His flocks,

And guide them with the wholeness of thy heart.

DAVID

Oh, may He lead me in the perfect way
Which thou hast shown me. May he come to me,
That I, within my house with simple heart
May ever walk, nor base ambition know ;
But on the faithful of the land may fix
My eyes, that they shall dwell with me in peace ;
And I may take my stand in line with those
Who from the past in great or lowly place
Have handed on our heritage of truth.
So may our parting chasten my sad heart,
That still to all the world our love shall prove
How friend may strengthen friend. While I but stand
As thou hast taught me there is no defeat,
And when I die I lay me down with thee.

JONATHAN

Go, brother, run thy course, and may the end
Crown the beginning. I must seek my father
For one last meeting.

DAVID

God thy mission bless.

[*Exeunt severally.*

SCENE III.—*Near Mount Gilboa at night.* JONATHAN *alone at the door of his tent.*

JONATHAN

Who looks upon this ordered universe,
And seeks no further than its marshaling?
The pinioned reason beats against the bars
Of nature's conservations, and escapes
To soar and see the great Creator's face.
The earth that stands at rest from nothing hung,
The stars that cheer us in our treadmill lives,
God's diadem the sun, the sky serene
That guards for us the bounds of vision—all
Proclaim by day and night the thoughts of God.
As David says, there is no speech nor language,
Their voice can not be heard; yet through the earth
Their line is gone, their words to the end of the world.

We learn a little part, and say, "Behold,
It is nothing"; and the whole is hid from us.
For where were we when God ordained their bounds
And put each star in place? Their courses fixed
Typify the set unchanging rule
That brings the spring and harvest, day and night,
Summer and winter; which the God of all
The hosts of heaven, by a compact firm,
Sealed with the rainbow, unto Noah promised,
Shall while the earth remaineth still endure.

If he ruled o'er the heart the tumult raging
In every bosom soon would still itself,
And all would be at rest. But now, instead,
Hatred, rebellion, plague and pestilence,
Famine and fury break the peace of nature;
While things eternal pass unnoted by.

[AHINOAM, JONATHAN'S *wife, within the tent, sings.*

AHINOAM

My heart seeks after thee, but thou art gone.
Once we—oh! joyous years—
Shared in each other's hopes and fears;
But now I am alone.

My hope would cling to thee, but thou dost sleep.
Some day—oh! will it be?—
I shall be joined again with thee;
But now alone I weep.

Enter from the tent JONATHAN'S *wife with their two children.*

AHINOAM

Do thou not let the choice of David weigh
Thy spirit down. For they who bear the rule
Must act from policy; a lowly place
Admits of clearer life; and, in the end,

The virtues bred in secret make the state,
No matter who is king.

JONATHAN

My dearest wife,
The state is jarred to breaking. David flees—
To Gath, to join with Achish there, I fear.
Jehovah's open enemies are gathered
Upon our borders, while his secret foes
Surround the king, and lead him bound like Samson,
And blinder, knowing not that he is bound.
All of his people, even the ark of God
Is placed in jeopardy. Thy life, our children;
Nothing is safe.

AHINOAM

The Lord will guard His own.

JONATHAN

Yes; but who can bow to God's decrees
That crush his heart? These prattlers, each afraid
Of the boo of the other—half afraid of his own—

What fate will visit them if I be taken?
Affliction's net will trammel you, and want
Will come upon you like an armed man.

AHINOAM

Then flee with us, my dearest love, for safety.

JONATHAN

It would not be thy love who fled with thee.
If God should grant that thou and I may live
Until the whirlwind of his fury passes
And David mounts the throne of Israel,
Together we will seek the cooling shadow
Of some great rock, and dwell in peace and love.

AHINOAM

Hast thou no pity for thy little children
And hapless me, their mother? Must I look
To see thee slain, and some Philistine fiend
Drag us away, while thy dear body lieth
Upon the ground, for birds and beasts to tear?
Better that we should go the way of death
Than live when thou art gone.

JONATHAN

These things, dear wife,
I, too, have thought of. May my ears be stopped
In sleep eternal e'er I hear thy crying,
When thou hast lost the light of liberty.
But if Jehovah hath for us in store
Such fate, where, fleeing, can we find escape?
Yet may these children fill thy heart with pride,
When thou hast heard their praise in higher note
Than ever mine was sung; and may they rise
And call thee blessed. Loved Ahinoam,
The wife I wedded in my stainless youth,
The dear companion to my plighted vows;
Thou hast rejoiced the heart that trusted thee,
And done me good, not evil, all our days.
Beauty and grace and dignity have clothed thee,
And kindness ruled thy life.

AHINOAM

My staff, my strength,

Full seven times the righteous man may fall
And rise again ; and, tho he rise no more,
Yet, in the thought of God and men remembered,
He marcheth on forever crowned in triumph,
The victor for the prizes undefiled.

JONATHAN

My little ones, my glorious wife, your pathway
Is like the parting branches when the hart
Leaps in the thicket ! I must watch awhile.
Good-night, good-night, good-night.

[*He embraces and kisses them.*

All that the chastened spirit wants is promised :
The eternal God to be thy dwelling-place,
And, underneath, the everlasting arms.

[*Exeunt* AHINOAM *and the children into the tent.*

JONATHAN

How long, oh Lord ! Wilt Thou forget forever ?
How long wilt Thou withhold Thy face from me ?

How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
With sorrow in my heart through all the day?

Consider now, and answer me, my God!
Lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death;
Lest they that trouble me prevail against me,
And they that cherish me be filled with woe.

But I have trusted in Thy mercy ever,
My heart shall yet rejoice in Thy salvation;
And I will sing unto the Lord my God,
Because with me He hath dealt lovingly.

[AHINOAM, *in the tent, sings.*

AHINOAM

The sun will shine as bright to thee,
Thy smile will be as sweet for me,
As tho he were not gone.
The world moves on without concern;
And this from thee I gently learn,
My little one.

While over thee my watch I kèep,
Rest thou, and sweetly dreaming, sleep,
As tho he were not gone.
And in thy slumber I will find
A balm to heal my troubled mind,
My little one.

Grow on, unchecked, in every part,
In body, spirit, mind, and heart,
As tho he were not gone.
Life is still with gladness fraught;
And this assurance thou hast taught,
My little one.

Enter ZIBA.

JONATHAN

What fateful tiding brings thee here in haste?

ZIBA

I am one of those who went with Saul to-night
To En-dor from Gilboa. Saul had called
Upon the Lord to learn the fate in store,
But no prophetic word or sign had come

By dreams, by Urim and Thummim, nor by seers.
At last the king bade me to ferret out
A woman troubled with a familiar spirit.
At En-dor found I such an one, and led
The king unto her cloaked in deep disguise.
He asked that she should bring up Samuel.
Something she muttered; then she started wildly
And cried aloud, "Wherefore hast thou deceived me?
Thou art Saul!" "Woman, what seest thou?" he asked.
"I see a god arising." "What his form?"
"An old man covered with a robe," she answered.
Then Saul divined that Samuel was risen,
And fell upon the ground. And Samuel said,
"Wherefore dost thou disquiet me, since God
Hath rent the kingdom from thee, and bestowed it
Upon thy neighbor, David? Yea, to-morrow
All thy great host Jehovah will destroy,
And thou shalt be with me."

JONATHAN

What said he more?

ZIBA

"Thou, and thy sons."

JONATHAN

My hour is come at last.

Enter a MESSENGER.

MESSENGER

Saul doth call for aid.

JONATHAN

Unfurl my banner.

Say that none are called save men like those
Who fought with Gideon, each from an hundred picked.

[*Exit* MESSENGER.

ZIBA

'Twere better we should end our lives ourselves
Than fall a prey to foes uncircumcised.

JONATHAN

God gave my life, and tho fulfilled of sorrow

Hath it been ever, He alone shall take it.
My heart shall not reproach me while I live;
My soul shall take its flight from earth unweighted.
Ziba, I know thee well. Thy worth I know,
And long and faithful service; unrequited,
Since Saul the king hath made dishonor honor.
Within this tent is all I hope to save
From sweeping desolation. Stand thou here
Till I am gone. Then flee with them for life.
To David go. Tell him thy present service;
Demand of him a fitting recompense,
And ask that he fulfil unto my house
Our covenant.

[JONATHAN *looks into the tent.*

I will not wake them now.
Too many wakeful hours are in store.
But I should miss them more. The little children
Will gently teach their mother how to live
A life whereof I am not. May the Lord

Require of thee that harm shall never reach them.

ZIBA

The Lord require it of me. I will write it
Upon the tablet of my heart, my prince.

[TROOPS *gather. Enter a second* MESSENGER.

MESSENGER

Saul is sorely pressed on Mount Gilboa.
Abner is fled, and, with him, Eshbaal.
Abinadab is slain. Melchishua
Is with the king, and calls to thee for aid.

JONATHAN

Farewell, my love, my life, my all—farewell.
Form the troop in order! Sound the charge!
The king—my father—needs me. Forward, men,
For God and Israel!

[*A bugle is sounded. Exeunt* JONATHAN *and the troopers and messengers, leaving* ZIBA *alone at the door of the tent.*

SCENE IV.—*On Mount Gilboa.* SAUL. JONATHAN *approaching.*

SAUL

Why art thou come? Is not the hope of God
Departed from me? Flee with Eshbaal,
Abner, and all who drew their breath from me,
And leave me now as one that is infected,
To perish singly. May they die the death
The malefactor dies, their hands and feet
With fetters bound! And may there never fail
Among their offspring one that hath an issue,
A leper, one that falleth on the sword,
Or lacketh bread. 'Tis thou hast been the cause.
This crown, which I had lifted from my head
To place upon thine own, by thee was dashed
Upon the ground. Why dost thou come to see it
Cleft with the sword that ends my wretched life?
Out on thee, traitor! blacker far than David,
Lacking inducement. Out, I say—begone!

JONATHAN

My troopers all are gone, but not as thine ;
For each has paid in full the debt he owed
To God and king and country. Why have these,
Whom I had drawn about me, perished here,
While those about thee fled away ? But, father,
I came not to reproach thee. Let us die,
As we have lived, together.

SAUL

Jonathan,
Hast thou forgotten how I cast my spear
To take thy life ? I have not called thee hither.
Tell me what brought thee here, whence all are fled
That I have counted on ? Thy course toward David
Has been a strange enigma. Comment harsh,
From men who now are fled, has spurred my rage,
Till I have thought to ride thee down rough-shod.
But now, when death has cast his net about me,

Thou art come here to bear me company.

JONATHAN

We two have stood confronting one another,
And in between has rested what has seemed
To me a cloud of fire, lighting up
The path of duty ; but to thee appeared
A cloud of darkness. God the Lord was in it.
But let us talk no more on themes that part us
Upon this awful mount whose very clods
The blood of heroes slain doth consecrate.
Let us the rather stand with shoulders set,
Together braving all that comes ; for soon
All that remains for us will happen here.
The crown, which parted us, is lost to both.
Then let us both forget the sorrow past,
In one embrace of joyous reuniting.

SAUL

Let the Philistines take me, bore mine eyes,
Set me to tread the mill where Samson slaved.
Flee from me, mock me, spit upon me, slay me !

Heap not coals of fire upon my head—
Dearer than life itself, my hope, my boy!

[SAUL *takes the crown from his head and places it on* JONATHAN'S *head.*

Thus do I crown thee, I, thine only subject;
But, being king, I make thee king of all.
Now give me one embrace, and flee for life,
That I alone may pay for all my sins.

[*They embrace. A shower of arrows.* SAUL *is wounded.* JONATHAN *falls dead, and the crown rolls upon the ground.*

Oh! for the universal midnight cry
Of smitten Egypt, now to wail my dead one!
Not all the loss of Pharaoh and his subjects,
Home-born and captive, when the Lord in blood
Poured out his fury, could in general tale
Sum up the worth of this my eldest born.
And even the slightest faith by any felt,
Of those who, with the hyssop, sprinkled blood

Upon the lintels, would have saved him to me
To wear my crown. Now goes he down in death
Before me.

Enter an AMALEKITE.

Who art thou?

AMALEKITE

An Amalekite.

SAUL

Hold thou my sword that I may fall upon it;
For anguish taketh bitter hold upon me,
Because my life is whole within me still.

[*The* AMALEKITE *holds the sword and* SAUL *falls upon it.*

May thy soul stay for me, my Jonathan.

SAUL *dies.*

SCENE V. *At Jabesh-Gilead. A funeral pyre. Enter mourners, bearing the bodies of* SAUL *and* JONATHAN. DAVID *meets them.*

DAVID

Thy glory, O Israel,
Is slain upon Thy high places!
How are the mighty
Fallen!

Tell it not in Gath,
Publish it not in the streets of Askelon;
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph!

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew nor rain upon you,
Neither fields of offerings;
For there the shield of the mighty was vilely cast away,

The shield of Saul, as of one not anointed
with oil.

From the blood of the slain,
From the fat of the mighty,
The bow of Jonathan turned not back,
And the sword of Saul returned not empty.

Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in
their lives,
And in their death they were not divided;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.

Ye daughters of Israel
Weep over Saul,
Who clothed you in scarlet delicately,
And put ornaments of gold upon your
apparel.

How are the mighty
Fallen in the midst of the battle!
O Jonathan,
Slain upon thy high places.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan.
Very loving hast thou been unto me;
Thy love for me was wonderful,
Passing the love of women.

How are the mighty
Fallen!
And the weapons of war
Perished!

NOTES

ACT I

Scene I

Line

2 .. .. II. Samuel xix : 10
5 .. .. I. Samuel x : 23

Scene II

12 .. .. I. Samuel xvii : 46
13–14 .. .. Judges xx : 16
19 .. .. I. Samuel xvii : 12
21 .. .. I. Samuel xvi : 23
30–40 .. ..I. Samuel xvi : 1–13
44–47 .. ..I. Samuel xviii : 1–4
56–85 .. ..I. Samuel xiv : 1–45
68 .. .. I. Samuel xi : 11
75 .. .. Judges xi : 40
90 .. .. I. Samuel xx : 16
98 .. .. Ruth i : 17
110 .. .. Proverbs iii : 35

Scene III

11 .. .. I. Samuel xviii : 18–23
15 .. .. I. Samuel xviii : 19
18–22 .. .. I. Samuel xvii : 40–46
27 .. .. I. Samuel xvii : 50–51

Scene IV

Line	
6	II. Samuel xiii : 18
35–38	I. Samuel xvii : 34–35
42	Psalm xxiii : 1
71	I. Samuel vi : 9
74	I. Samuel xviii : 25
81–82	I. Kings xx : 11
83–84	I. Samuel xviii : 17–25
87	Numbers xiv : 9

Scene V

15–16	Song : "I do not love thee"
26–27	I. Samuel xviii : 7
33	II. Kings iii : 25
36	I. Samuel xviii : 25–27
40	Song of Solomon ii : 4
62–73	After Goldsmith's "Elegy on Madam Blaize"

Scene VI

8	I. Samuel xviii : 8
9–13	I. Samuel xix : 4–6
15	I. Samuel ii : 25
25	Jeremiah iv : 22
27	Ecclesiasticus v : 9
34	II. Samuel i : 24
35	II. Samuel i : 23
36	Psalm xviii : 42
37	Ancient Egyptian Hymn
60	Tobit vii : 12–13

Line

66 ..Abbott's "Jesus of Nazareth" (1882), p. 64; "Ruth gleaned for grain and harvested a husband."

67–69 .. .. Ruth iv : 11

ACT II

Scene I

43–45 .. .. II. Samuel iii : 16

52 .. .. Job xxii : 2

63 .. .. Genesis xxvii : 36

75–76 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 32–35

78 .. .. Judges xix : 29 to xx : 11; I. Samuel xi : 7

86–88 .. .. I. Samuel xiii : 14; xv : 24–31

101 .. .. Ezekiel xxxiii : 31

107–108 .. .. Deuteronomy xxv : 4

Scene II

27 .. .. Proverbs xxvii : 24

51 .. .. I. Samuel x : 22–23

52–55 .. .. I. Samuel x : 27 to xi : 15

56 .. .. Psalm lxxxix : 20

60–61 .. .. I. Samuel ii : 13–16

Scene III

For the scene, see.. .. I. Samuel xix : 18–24

8 .. .. II. Peter ii : 22

11 .. .. I. Samuel viii : 7

13 .. .. Proverbs xxx : 21–22

Line

17 .. .. I. Samuel xiii : 8–14 and xv : 10–23
23 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 2–3
28–29 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 15
30 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 32–33
33–34 .. .. Joshua viii : 28–29 ; xi : 14
37 .. .. .. { Judges xvii : 6 and xxi : 25
Deuteronomy xii : 8
38 .. .. { Judges xix : 22–24
Genesis xix : 4–8
40–45 .. .. Judges ii : 14 ; v : 6–8 ; vi : 1–6
48–49 .. .. I. Samuel xii : 11
52 .. .. I, Samuel xii : 10
53 .. .. Jeremiah ii : 28
55–56 .. .. Jeremiah ii : 11
57–58 .. .. I. Samuel iv, v, vi
60 .. .. I. Samuel x : 1
63 .. .. I. Samuel ix : 11–13
64 .. .. I. Samuel ix : 20
69 .. .. Isaiah xi : 9
71 .. .. I. Samuel xvi : 7
73 .. .. { Exodus xvii : 8–14
Deutoronomy xxv : 17–19
78 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 13–22
80 .. .. Jeremiah xxxi : 32
83–85 .. .. Jeremiah vii : 22–23
87 .. .. I. Samuel xii : 25
89 .. .. I. Samuel xv : 11
90 .. .. Numbers xiv : 19
99 .. See Rubaiyat, II (Fitzgerald), Golden Treasury Series (Macmillan, 1899), p. 61, for a reference to the phenomenon of the false dawn.

Line

100–101 .. .. Hosea xiii : 11

120–131 .. .. { Deutoronomy xxviii : 24, 49, 54–57, 68; Jeremiah xv : 4

139 .. .. Numbers xx : 28

146–147 .. .. .. { Deuteronomy xxiv : 16 II. Kings xiv : 6

156 .. .. Job xiv : 18–19

160 .. .. I. Kings xvi : 2

170–174 .. .. .. { Job xi : 20 ; xiv : 10–12 Isaiah xix : 5

ACT III

Scene I

For the scene, see.. .. .. I. Samuel xx : 1–23

60 .. .. I. Samuel xxviii : 2

84 .. .. Genesis xli : 40

102–106 .. .. Joshua xxii : 21–29

107 .. .. Proverbs ii : 7

108–109 .. .. Proverbs xxvi : 2

111–113 .. .. Psalm cxxxix : 23–24

114 .. .. I. Samuel xxiii : 17

121–125 .. .. .. { Jeremiah xvii : 8 Psalms i : 3 and lxxii : 6

ACT IV

Scene I

1–2 .. .. II. Kings v : 21–22

5–6 .. .. I. Samuel xxii : 17–19.

15 .. Rubaiyat, I (Fitzgerald), First Edition

19 .. .. II. Samuel iii : 11

27–28 .. .. Ecclesiasticus xix : 10

Line

37 .. .. Jeremiah xv : 1
49 .. .. I. Samuel xxii : 2
55 .. .. Exodus xxi : 5–6
56 .. Jeremiah ii : 25 ; Deuteronomy xxv : 9
The voluntary removal of the shoe was a sign of reverence ; the forcible removal a disgrace.
61–62 .. .. Ezekiel xviii : 2
68 .. .. Matthew viii : 20
69–70 .. .. I. Samuel xxvi : 8

SCENE II

26–27 .. .. Judges ix : 7–15
32–33 .. .. Judges viii : 2
37–38 .. .. II. Samuel xix : 6

SCENE III

1–8 .. .. Psalm lxxxi : 1–4
9–16 .. .. Ezekiel xxiv : 3–5
22 .. .. Ecclesiasticus vii : 4
29–31 .. .. I. Esdras ix : 51
71–74 .. .. II. Samuel 3 : 8–10
77 *et seq*... .. .. I. Samuel xx : 26–34

ACT V

SCENE I

For the scene, see .. .. I. Samuel xx ; 18–40
For Elhanan, see .. .. .. II. Samuel xxi : 19
25 .. .. Luke vii : 8
26–28 .. { Deuteronomy xxxiii : 22 / Numbers xxiii : 24 and xxiv : 9

Line

39 .. Jowett's Plato, vol. i, p. 419. (1892)
44–47 .. .. Ezekiel xxxiv : 3–6
49 .. .. I. Samuel xxvi : 20
58 .. .. 1. Samuel x : 24

SCENE II

5 .. .. I. Samuel xxiii : 14–18
7–9 .. .. Matthew iv : 8
13 .. .. Catullus iii : 11–12
43 .. .. Matthew xi : 3
58–59 .. .. .. Psalms lxxii; lxxviii : 71–72
60–65 .. .. Psalm ci

SCENE III

6 .. { Job xxvi : 7; Taylor's "Ancient Ideals" (1900), vol. i, page 307; Jowett's Plato, vol. ii, page 257 (1892)
11–13 .. .. Psalm xix : 1–4, R. V.
16 .. .. Job xxxviii : 4
19–23 .. .. .. Genesis viii : 22 to ix : 17
45 .. .. I. Samuel xxvii : 2
57 .. .. Job xxxvi : 8
58 .. .. Proverbs vi : 11
65 .. .. Isaiah xxxii : 2
66–80 .. "The Iliad" (translated by Lang, Leaf and Myers), pp. 123–126 (1889).
80–81 .. .. Proverbs xxxi : 28
84–87 .. .. Proverbs xxxi : 10–31
88–89 .. .. Proverbs xxiv : 16
90–92 .. Wisdom of Solomon iv : 1–2, R. V.
98–99 .. .. Deuteronomy xxxiii : 27
100–111 .. .. Psalm xiii

Line

112–114 .. Boswell's Johnson (Hill, 1891), vol. iii., p. 188.

131–153 .. .. I. Samuel xxviii : 5–20

155–156 .. .. Judges vii : 1–8

161 .. .. Job xxvii : 6

178–179 .. .. Proverbs iii : 3

181 .. .. II. Samuel ii : 8–9

182 .. .. I. Samuel xxxi : 2

SCENE IV

For the scene, see { I. Samuel xxxi; II. Samuel i : 1–16; I. Chronicles x; Josephus, Book VI., xiv.

1–2 .. .. I. Samuel xvi : 14

5–10 .. .. II. Samuel iii : 29 and 33–34

35–37 .. .. Exodus xiv : 20

47–48 .. .. Judges xvi : 21

50 .. .. Proverbs xxv : 21–22

52 .. That it was the custom to wear the crown in battle, see II. Samuel i : 10 and xii : 30

56–58 .. .. Exodus xii : 29–30

59 .. .. Joshua viii : 33, R. V.

59–60 .. .. Ezekiel xiv : 19

63–64 .. .. Exodus xii : 21–23

66–69 .. .. II. Samuel i : 8–10

SCENE V

For the funeral pyre, see .. I. Samuel xxxi : 12

1–42 .. { II. Samuel i : 19–27; The Modern Reader's Bible; "The Judges," pp. 244–246.

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